

Former Rivals and NBA Legends Magic Johnson and Isiah Thomas Sit Down for Wide-Ranging & Emotional Conversation in NBA TV's *Players Only: Monthly Series* Premiere, Tuesday, December 19 at 11 p.m. ET

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Editor's note - [Trailer for Isiah & Magic Interview](#)

Hour-Long Interview Features Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Famers Discussing Their Lifelong Friendship, NBA Finals Matchups & More

NBA TV will premiere its *Players Only: Monthly* series with an hour-long interview between longtime friends and former competitors **Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Isiah Thomas**. The wide-ranging and emotional conversation will tip off the network's new monthly series on **Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 11 p.m. ET**.

During the episode, **Johnson and Thomas reconnect** and look back on **four decades of memories and experiences**, including the **30th anniversary of the 1988 NBA Finals**, the pair's **off-season travels and bonding**, how the two **balanced their friendship and competitiveness**, and the **ups and downs of their relationship** leading up to their recent reunion.



Outtakes from the interview:

Johnson on Thomas and their familiarity with one another: "There's not a person on Earth who knows me better than you."

Johnson on losing the 1984 NBA Finals: "I had excelled every time [through high school, college and NBA]... I had never failed, and it was my fault that we lost that championship. That was my fault. I turned the ball over, made some bad decisions... I cried all summer."

Thomas on how he now realizes the importance of his relationship with Johnson: “This is what I didn’t understand, but I understand now, our relationship is important to our community... It’s bigger than us... This is a big moment that we are sharing now... Everybody said, ‘you know they’re going to try and pull you apart,’... You and I as black men, as brothers, as friends, this relationship is important to our community.”

Johnson on why he mentored Thomas and others by showing them how to win: “First, the love I have, and still have for all of you guys... It was the way we were raised... My thing was, pay it forward; and look what you did... We are in a fraternity that is special... The difference is, you did something with [the knowledge].

The **Players Only** franchise – one of the latest NBA content initiatives to debut from Turner Sports – is centered on showcasing the game exclusively through the unique lens of the professional basketball player. The network’s live game and original programming **Players Only** coverage incorporates a more conversational delivery and deeper insights into the game – directly from the athlete’s perspective. All commentators appearing as part of *Players Only* are current and/or former professional players.

NBA TV’s new **Players Only: Monthly** series will present expanded themed segments throughout the season from the network’s leading commentators including *Diesel’s Dunks* [Shaquille O’Neal], *Smitty’s Under the Rim* [Steve Smith], *3D’s Shooter’s Paradise* [Dennis Scott], *Isiah on Point* [Thomas] and *Sam Mitchell’s Rookie Update*.

About NBA TV

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